

General Audition Information ***The Nutcracker – 20th Anniversary***

Please carefully read the Letter of Agreement including Terms and Conditions for a detailed description of the rehearsal and performance schedule for *The Nutcracker* 2017, absence policy, fees, mandatory family meetings, and family and dancer volunteer requirements. Below is an introduction to auditions and a brief overview of the time and financial commitments involved in taking part in *The Nutcracker*.

Nutcracker Performance Dates

CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker* will be performed December 1-3 and December 8-10, 2017 at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. There will be two casts of performers.

The performance dates are as follows:

Friday December 1 at 7:30pm

Saturday December 2 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Sunday December 3 at 2:00pm

Friday December 8 at 7:30pm

Saturday December 9 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Sunday December 10 at 2:00pm

Thanksgiving Weekend Rehearsal

Due to the two-weekend performance schedule this year, there will be no rehearsals from November 23-26th. Happy Thanksgiving!

Age at Time of Audition

Please be aware that the age groups posted for auditions are based on the age of the dancer on the day of auditions—September 9, 2017—NOT upon his/her age at the time of the performance. To audition for CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, a child must have been born on or prior to September 9, 2012.

Audition Registration and Check-In

Auditions will take place at Champaign Ballet Academy, 2810 W. Clark Road in Champaign on Saturday, September 9th. Please complete and submit the audition registration form online at www.cuballet.com. Deadline for registration is **5pm Wednesday, September 6th**. The \$10 audition fee (cash or check) is due at the time of audition on September 9th.

Children auditioning should arrive at check-in at the time noted for the child's age group. Due to limited space, please **do not** arrive any earlier/later than the scheduled time. Please refer to the audition schedule detailed at www.cuballet.com. At the time of check in, the \$10 audition fee (cash or check) will be collected. Each child auditioning will be assigned an audition number and his/her measurements will be taken.

Audition Class

Each group audition is a short, age-appropriate ballet class. Once an audition class has begun, late arrivals will not be admitted. In order for the artistic staff to fairly evaluate all children, it is important that your child stay for the duration of the audition class. Please note that you will not be able to view your child's audition.

Audition Attire

Ballet attire (leotard, tights, and ballet shoes) or other dance/exercise apparel is recommended. If he/she does not have ballet shoes, bare feet are acceptable. Hair should be pulled back securely off of the face.

Posting of Audition Results

Audition results will be announced by 5pm on Wednesday, September 13th. The cast list will be posted online at www.cuballet.com and posted on the door at Champaign Urbana Ballet, 2816 W. Clark Road.

Cast Fees

If your child is selected and you choose to have him/her participate in *The Nutcracker*, there is a non-refundable cast fee of \$200 which must be paid at the **mandatory** family meeting on **Friday, September 15th**. Should you elect to pay by credit card, a service fee will be added. If more than one member of an immediate family is cast in *The Nutcracker*, the fee is \$300/family. This fee covers rehearsals, costuming, cast party attendance, and a commemorative tee shirt. The costume itself will remain the property of the ballet company. You are responsible for your child's tights, shoes, make-up, hair products and other personal items. Professional videographers will record the performance and produce a DVD. An experienced dance photographer will take both posed and action photos of *The Nutcracker*. If you wish to order a DVD of the performance or photos of your child, you will have that opportunity. CU Ballet does not receive any profit or portion of sales from those items.

A limited number of scholarships are available to cover the cast fee described above for families who demonstrate a financial need. Please contact CU Ballet Executive Director Kay Greene at kay@cuballet.com prior to the Family Meeting on September 15th should you be in need of such a scholarship.

Terms and Conditions - Letter of Agreement

A signed Letter of Agreement, including Terms and Conditions, is required for all cast members and must be submitted at the September 15th Family Meeting. A parent or guardian must sign for each cast member under the age of 18.

Family Commitment

- 1. Rehearsals:** Please read Terms and Conditions for detailed rehearsal schedules for each age group. Rehearsals begin on September 16th. With only 10 rehearsals to prepare, attendance at rehearsals is mandatory. Should an emergency arise, cast members must immediately contact Rehearsal Assistant Ginny Martinez at ginny@cuballet.com.

- 2. Family meetings:** A **mandatory** Family Meeting will be held on **Friday, September 15th from 5-6:30pm. All dancers** along with at least one parent must attend this meeting. Dancers should attend in dance attire as additional costume measurements may be required. A second Family Meeting for families new to *The Nutcracker* is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th. Please mark your calendar accordingly. More details will be provided at a later date.
- 3. Service hours:** Every cast member family has a service hour requirement of 12 hours minimum leading up to or during the production. There are a variety of jobs available and general information about those responsibilities will be shared at the Family Meeting.
- 4. Costume Fittings:** Attendance at scheduled fittings is mandatory. Every effort will be made to schedule fittings before or after schedule rehearsals.